

Natural Resources Results Team Tollgate #3

1. Map of Causal Factors

2. List key indicators of success and high-level purchase strategies. Please note if changes have been made from Tollgate #2.

Indicators

Reducing Human Impacts on the Environment	
Trends in Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Emissions	New indicator since Tollgate #2. Replaces percentage of days with unhealthy air from POG I.
Trends in Water Quality from 62 Long Term Water Quality Monitoring Stations	The water quality indicator is now clearly.
Toxics Released into the Air, Land and Water from permitted activities	This is a new indicator from Tollgate # 2.
Maintaining habitat to support natural systems	
Rate of resource land converted to urban uses.	Same – Still hoping to receive data updates from USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations	
Freshwater Productivity Index for Selected Stocks (Ratio of juvenile migrants to returning adult spawners)	Modified – Now tracking returns of listed fish rather than just classifying stocks as healthy.
Wildlife Species Classified as Endangered, Threatened or Sensitive	Similar indicator as POG I

The Strategies for the Natural Resources Result Team are unchanged from Tollgate # 2. They include:

- **Safeguards and Standards:** Human activity has a significant impact on the state's natural resources. This strategy establishes standards to prevent harm to the state's natural resources caused by human actions.
- **Preserve, Maintain and Restore Natural Systems and Landscapes:** Although significant effort is made to prevent new damage to natural systems, historic uses have resulted in ongoing harm to the environment. This strategy works to maintain and restore the state's natural systems and the ecosystem services they provide to society.
- **Sustainable Use of Public Resources:** Citizens and businesses enjoy economic benefit from the use of public natural resources. This strategy attempts to realize economic and social benefits from the sustainable use of public natural resources.
- **Change Individual Practices and Choices:** The choices and actions of individuals have a significant impact on the health of the state's environment. This strategy attempts to influence the public's knowledge and understanding of their impacts on the state's natural resources.
- **Obtain Data on which to Make Better Decisions:** Good natural resource management is dependent upon sound science and high-quality monitoring data. Monitoring data influences decisions made in all other major strategies. Good data can help identify problem areas, and target the most effective responses. Monitoring can also help determine the effectiveness of our other strategies.

3. Based on agency budget submittals, agency responses to targeted budget instructions, and other research since Tollgate #2 please answer the following questions:

A. What one or two new ideas suggested by your team or agencies appear most worth pursuing to improve results or reduce costs?

There were two recommendations suggested.

Improve On-Site Septic Management at the Local Level: Improperly installed or maintained septic systems can have a negative impact on water quality. This is a particularly true in Puget Sound and Hood Canal where development is concentrated along the shoreline. Under current law, the primary responsibility for management of septic systems lies with local health jurisdictions (LHJ). These LHJ's often do not have the resources to monitor and inspect these systems. The State Board of Health and the Department of Health authorities generally only address human health but neither address environmental protection when there is not a threat to human health. A work group headed by the Puget Sound Action Team has made recommendations on legislative changes, to require LHJ to also address environmental protection as

well as human health, and potentially create new mechanisms for local governments to manage and fund water quality in high-risk areas.

Reduce Greenhouse Gases by Adopting California Air Emission Standards:

Global warming will have a significant impact on the natural environment as well as agriculture in this state. The transportation sector emits almost half of the greenhouse gases from the energy sector in the state. In order to stabilize and eventually reduce emission of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, it has been proposed that Washington adopt the recently approved California Air Resources Board new vehicle emission standards. These standards will require new cars starting with the 2009 model year to meet new phased in standards for CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. These standards are estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% in 2016 from what would have occurred under existing standards.

B. What changes in government operations, or in state law, are necessary to implement these new ideas?

To improve management of on-site septic systems legislation is needed to require LHH's to address environmental protection as well as human health and to create new mechanisms for local governments to manage and fund water quality in high risk areas.

In order to adopt the new California air emission standards, the Department of Ecology needs legislative authority to adopt these standards by rule.